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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1.   A method for administering managed resources, comprising:

defining a set of privileges for a managed resource; and

10   attaching an access control list to an object that represents the managed resource, wherein the access control list assigns at least one privilege from the set of privileges to an entity.

15   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is an individual user.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the entity is a group of users.

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4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the managed resource is one of a plurality of managed resources arranged in a hierarchy.

25   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the set of privileges comprises a set of operations that may be performed for the managed resource.

6.   A method for administering a plurality of managed

30   resources including at least one first level resource and

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at least one second level resource, wherein each of the
at least one second level resource is a subresource of a
first level resource, comprising:

    defining a first set of permissions for the at least
5 one first level resource; and

    attaching a first access control list to a first
object that represents a first managed resource,

    wherein the first managed resource is a first level
resource and the first access control list controls
10 access to the first managed resource and at least one
subresource of the first managed resource based on the
first set of permissions.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the first entity is
15 an individual user.

8.   The method of claim 6, wherein the first entity is a
group of users.

20 9.   The method of claim 6, wherein the set of privileges
comprises a set of operations that may be performed for
the at least one first level resource.

10.   The method of claim 6, further comprising:
25   defining a second set of permissions for a second
managed resource; and

    attaching a second access control list to a second
object that represents the second managed resource,
wherein the second access control list controls access to
30 the second managed resource and at least one subresource
of the second managed resource based on the second set of

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permissions.

11.   A method for administering managed resources,
comprising:
5   receiving a request from a user to perform an
operation on a managed resource;
          finding an access control list corresponding to the
managed resource; and
          determining whether the operation is permitted for
10   the user based on the access control list.

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the managed resource
is one of a plurality of managed resources arranged in a
hierarchy and wherein the step of finding an access
15   control list comprises searching the hierarchy for an
access control list which is attached closest to the
managed resource.

13.   The method of claim 11, wherein the step of finding
20   an access control list comprises finding a first access
control list that assigns a first permission for the user
and a second access control list that assigns a second
permission for the user.

25   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the step of
determining whether the operation is permitted for the
user comprises selecting the access control list, from
the first access control list and the second access
control list, with a permission that more specifically
30   matches the user.

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15.   The method of claim 13, wherein the first permission
identifies a first set of operations permitted for the
user and the second permission identifies a second set of
operations permitted for the user, and

5   wherein the step of determining whether the
operation is permitted for the user comprises performing
an OR operation on the first set of operations and the
second set of operations.

10   16.   The method of claim 11, wherein the method is
performed by an authorization server.

17.   An apparatus for administering managed resources,
comprising:

15   definition means for defining a set of privileges
for a managed resource; and

attachment means for attaching an access control
list to an object that represents the managed resource,
wherein the access control list assigns at least one

20   privilege from the set of privileges to an entity.

18.   The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the entity is an
individual user.

25   19.   The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the entity is a
group of users.

20.   The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the managed
resource is one of a plurality of managed resources

30   arranged in a hierarchy.

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21.　The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the set of privileges comprises a set of operations that may be performed for the managed resource.

5　22.　An apparatus for administering a plurality of managed resources including at least one first level resource and at least one second level resource, wherein each of the at least one second level resource is a subresource of a first level resource, comprising:

10　　definition means for defining a first set of permissions for the at least one first level resource; and

　　attachment means for attaching a first access control list to a first object that represents a first

15　managed resource,

　　wherein the first managed resource is a first level resource and the first access control list controls access to the first managed resource and at least one subresource of the first managed resource based on the

20　first set of permissions.

23.　The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first entity is an individual user.

25　24.　The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first entity is a group of users.

25.　The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the set of privileges comprises a set of operations that may be

30　performed for the at least one first level resource.

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26.   The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:
means for defining a second set of permissions for a
second managed resource; and
means for attaching a second access control list to
5   a second object that represents the second managed
resource, wherein the second access control list controls
access to the second managed resource and at least one
subresource of the second managed resource based on the
second set of permissions.
10

27.   An apparatus for administering managed resources,
comprising:
receipt means for receiving a request from a user to
perform an operation on a managed resource;
15   search means for finding an access control list
corresponding to the managed resource; and
determination means for determining whether the
operation is permitted for the user based on the access
control list.
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28.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the managed
resource is one of a plurality of managed resources
arranged in a hierarchy and wherein the search means
comprises means for searching the hierarchy for an access
25   control list which is attached closest to the managed
resource.

29.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the search means
comprises means for finding a first access control list
30   that assigns a first permission for the user and a second
access control list that assigns a second permission for

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the user.

30.   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the determination
means comprises means for selecting the access control
5   list, from the first access control list and the second
access control list, with a permission that more
specifically matches the user.

31.   The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the first
10   permission identifies a first set of operations permitted
for the user and the second permission identifies a
second set of operations permitted for the user, and
        wherein the determination means comprises means for
performing an OR operation on the first set of operations
15   and the second set of operations.

32.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the apparatus
comprises an authorization server.

20   33.   A computer program product, in a computer readable
medium, for administering managed resources, comprising:
        instructions for defining a set of privileges for a
managed resource; and
        instructions for attaching an access control list to
25   an object that represents the managed resource, wherein
the access control list assigns at least one privilege
from the set of privileges to an entity.

34.   A computer program product, in a computer readable
30   medium, for administering a plurality of managed
resources including at least one first level resource and

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at least one second level resource, wherein each of the
at least one second level resource is a subresource of a
first level resource, comprising:

    instructions for defining a first set of permissions
5   for the at least one first level resource; and

    instructions for attaching a first access control
list to a first object that represents a first managed
resource,

    wherein the first managed resource is a first level
10 resource and the first access control list controls
access to the first managed resource and at least one
subresource of the first managed resource based on the
first set of permissions.

15 35. A computer program product, in a computer readable
medium, for administering managed resources, comprising:

    instructions for receiving a request from a user to
perform an operation on a managed resource;

    instructions for finding an access control list
20 corresponding to the managed resource; and

    instructions for determining whether the operation
is permitted for the user based on the access control
list.